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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/596,224	06/14/2000	Derek Chung	URBAP002	1788
22434	7590	11/29/2004	EXAMINER	
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS LLP P.O. BOX 778 BERKELEY, CA 94704-0778			NGUYEN, CAO H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2173	

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/596,224

Applicant(s)

CHUNG ET AL.

Examiner

Cao (Kevin) Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 August 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-17,20-27 and 29-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-17,20-27 and 29-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>09/02/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 4-17, 20-27 and 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Leahy et al. (US Patent No. 6,219,045).

Regarding claim 1, Leahy discloses a computer network user interface, comprising a computer network browsing environment, said environment providing a graphical spatial context to associate web sites to one another [a client screen display seen by one user in the chat system; see col. 3, lines 7-24]; and graphical representations (proxies) of users browsing the environment [the virtual world view is part of a virtual world of several rooms and may include hundreds of user and their avatars; see col. 3, lines 31-42]; wherein said users interact with one another via said proxies by chatting such that a message is displayed within the graphical spatial context in proximity of the proxy associated with the user generating the message [..chat processor receives messages which contain conversation or other data received from other users and sends out conversation or other data directed to other users; see col. 4, lines 32-67].

Regarding claim 4, Leahy discloses wherein all users within a neighborhood of the user generating the message view the message (see col. 5, lines 1-14).

Regarding claim 5, Leahy discloses, wherein the message is displayed in comprehensible text only to designated users (see col. 5, lines 25-50).

Regarding claim 6, Leahy discloses wherein the message is displayed to non-designated users as nonsense text (see col. 5, lines 51-63).

Regarding claim 7, Leahy discloses wherein text messages are displayed for a duration of time before being displayed in a scrolling transcription of conversations between user (see col. 6, lines 1-36).

Regarding claim 8, Leahy discloses in accordance with user character traits assigned to the proxies representing each user (see figures 1-2)..

Regarding claims 9-10, Leahy discloses wherein said shared multiple browser format comprises a plurality of browser windows represented as plots in a landscape sheet, said plots at least partially separated from each other by negative space (see col. 6, lines 53-67 and col. 7, lines 1-11).

Regarding claim 11, Leahy discloses one or more network servers each comprising a processor and a memory, one or more network clients connected with the network servers each comprising, a processor, memory, a display, and a network connector; and a network user interface, comprising, a computer network browsing environment, said environment providing a graphical spatial context to associate web sites to one another; and graphical representations (proxies) of users browsing the environment; wherein said users interact with one another via said proxies by chatting such that a message is displayed within the graphical spatial context in proximity of the proxy associated with the user generating the message (see figures 1-4 and col. 8, lines 19-62).

Regarding claims 12-13, Leahy discloses wherein said network browsing environment comprises a shared multiple browser format; and wherein said shared multiple browser format

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comprises a plurality of browser windows represented as plots in a landscape sheet, said plots at least partially separated from each other by negative space (see col. 14, lines 4-60).

Regarding claims 14-15, Leahy discloses wherein said landscape sheet is divided into sections at regular intervals, said section comprising virtual rooms for chatting; and wherein an area of interest around each particular user is defined and the intersection of the area of interest around each user and the sections defines the chat rooms in which the user is present (see col. 15, lines 23-67).

Regarding claims 16-17, Leahy discloses wherein a plurality of levels of chat rooms are provided such that when the number of users present in a level exceeds a given threshold, an additional level is allocated as a separate chat room for additional users in the same area of the landscape (see col. 15, lines 60-67).

As claims 20-27 and 29-31 are analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claims 1 and 4-17 above.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. (see PTO-892).

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

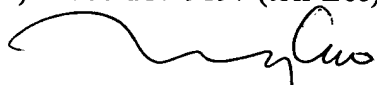
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the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cao (Kevin) Nguyen whose telephone number is (571)272-4053. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571)272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Cao (Kevin) Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2173

11/22/04